

CDC Launches New Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics

New center will enhance capability for timely, effective decision-making to improve outbreak response using data, models, and analytics

Press Release

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Today, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced the launch of the [Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics \(CFA\)](#). CFA seeks to enhance the nation's ability to use data, models, and analytics to enable timely, effective decision-making in response to public health threats for CDC and its public health partners.

CFA's goals are to improve outbreak response using infectious disease modeling and analytics and to provide support to leaders at the federal, state, and local levels. CFA will also develop a program to provide insights about infectious disease events to the public to inform individual decision making – the equivalent of the National Weather Service for infectious diseases.

"I am excited we have launched CDC's Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics," said CDC Director, Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH. "This new center is an example of how we are modernizing the ways we prepare for and respond to public health threats. I am proud of the work that has come out of this group thus far and eager to see continued innovation in the use of data, modeling, and analytics to improve outbreak responses."

CFA's work will be focused into three main pillars: to predict, inform, and innovate. CFA has begun to build a world-class outbreak analytics team with experts across several disciplines to develop faster, richer evidence to predict trends and guide decision-making during emergencies. To better inform our partners, CFA is hiring expert communicators to regularly share insights with federal, state, and local partners and the public. CFA will also continue to advance the state of the science of outbreak data, models and analytics to improve the nation's ability to respond to health emergencies.

"The capabilities and team we are building at the new Center will improve decision-making in a health crisis," said Dylan George, PhD, Director for Operations, CFA. "I am proud of the CFA team and excited for the future. Better data and analytics will give us better responses to protect all Americans."

Planning for CFA began in August 2021, with the initial funding of \$200 million from the American Rescue Plan Act. So far, CDC has awarded \$26 million in funding to academic institutions and federal partners to advance modeling and forecasting methodology, with an emphasis on workforce development and health equity. In December 2021, CFA worked with academic partners to assemble models anticipating the Omicron wave and generated early estimates of Omicron severity, giving leaders an opportunity to bolster the response.

For more information on CFA, visit www.cdc.gov/CFA.

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